

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 516  
By Sargent

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Coach Peter  
Thurmond and the 1997 Battle Ground Academy  
football team on winning the Tennessee  
Secondary School Athletic Association Division  
2, Class A State Tournament.

WHEREAS, teams who earn the rare accolade "great" have exceptional athletic ability  
and extraordinary dedication, work hard, are diligent, win despite the weather conditions or what  
the "experts" predict, are never deterred by setbacks or defeats, and make the sacrifices that  
are necessary for the success of the team; and

WHEREAS, the 1997 Battle Ground Academy football team, the Tennessee Secondary  
School Athletic Association, Division 2, Class A state champion, is unquestionably richly  
deserving of the title "great"; and

WHEREAS, during the regular season, Battle Ground compiled an excellent 8-2 record,  
beating Knoxville Webb 48-7, Harding Academy 28-0, Donelson Christian Academy 42-3, Tyner  
45-21, Spring Hill 33-0, Notre Dame 35-3, Ezell-Harding 62-0 and Goodpasture 28-0; and;

WHEREAS, B.G.A.'s glorious, unstoppable path to the Clinic Bowl included impressive  
playoff victories over Goodpasture Christian School 35-6 and Evangelical Christian School 10-7;  
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WHEREAS, at the historic Clinic Bowl, held November 22, 1997 at Dudley Stadium on the campus of Vanderbilt University the Wildcats battled the Webb School of Knoxville Spartans and emerged triumphant in a closely fought engagement, 19-7; and

WHEREAS, this was their second state championship in the last three years and the fourth state championship in school history (1960, 1966, 1995, and 1997); and

WHEREAS, after posting 10 straight wins, they finished this memorable season with a superb 11-2 record, an enviable 85% winning percentage; and

WHEREAS, the awesome record of the senior team members includes two state titles, three regional championships, 48 wins and only 7 losses, and never having been ranked lower than fifth in the state (1997-1, 1996-2, 1995-1, and 1994-5); and

WHEREAS, the powerful B.G.A. offense scored 441 points, an average of 31 points per game, while the stingy defense had four shutouts and only allowed 93 points, a meager average of 7 points per game; and

WHEREAS, highly regarded and respected Head Coach Peter Thurmond and his capable Assistant Coaches, Doug Langston, Tim Moore, Don Guthe, and Pedro Arruza have done a superb job of expertly preparing the team for the rigors of championship play and teaching the important lesson of how to be champions on the gridiron and on the field of life; and

WHEREAS, the team leaders were: Troy Fleming, who was chosen Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association, Division 2, Class A "Mr. Football" Defensive Back, Clinic Bowl Most Valuable Player, *Tennessean* Player of the Year, All-State, All-Region Player of the Year, and All-Midstate; John Phillips, Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association, Division 2, Class A "Mr. Football" Lineman, All-State, All-Region, and All-Midstate; Jackson Moran, All-State, All-Region Defensive Most Valuable Player, and All-Midstate; Jesse Pilkinton, All-State and All-Region; Joe Murphy, All-Region and All-Midstate; Lee Moore, All-Region and All-Midstate; Clay Parsons, All-Region and All-Midstate; and Brian Price, David Dawson, Jay

Davis, Andrew Ladebauche, Avery Fleming, Nathan Lankford, Tate Hepper, Tyson Bickley and Brad Davis, members of the All-Region team; and

WHEREAS, Battle Ground Academy is one of only three schools to have two persons selected as Mr. Football; and

WHEREAS, each of the members of this tremendously talented team made a significant contribution on the road to the state championship. The roster of this relatively young team included only nine seniors: Jesse Pilkinton, Jackson Moran, Nathan Lankford, John Phillips, Clay Parsons, J. D. Eddins, Lee Moore, John Minton, and Joe Murphy; juniors: Tate Hepper, Troy Fleming, Andrew Ladebauche, Coy Martin, Jay Davis, Paul Hepper, Scott Wade, Brian Price, David Dawson, Brandon Schroeder, Avery Fleming, Tyson Bickley, and Ryan Thomas; sophomores: Hunter Gilbert, Charles Lunsford, Brad Davis, Brent Goodman, Will Waldkirch, Erik Pearson, Charlie Phillips, Jonathan Minner, and Garrett Orr; and freshmen: Chris Collins, Ryan Fesmire, Cory Kroeger, Hunter Maskill, John Crosby, Adam Harmon, Rob Ashworth, Dennis Foster, Justin McQueen, Craig Hayes, Andrew Provost, Jonathan Seyfred, Tyler Hall, Kyle Sonia, Drew Walker, Jim Dugger, Austin Pennington, Ben Jeter, and Rob James; and

WHEREAS, Headmaster Dr. Ronnie Griffeth and Principal Dr. Lucas Boyd have strongly supported the team; and

WHEREAS, team doctors, Dr. Paul Thomas and Dr. Greg Cook, kept the team as healthy as possible during this demanding season; and

WHEREAS, the hard-working trainers were: Chris Sevens, Jason Wiggers and Katie MacArthur; the assiduous managers were: Jacob Grant, Charlie Gibson, and Scott Hood; and the adroit ball boys were: Matt Williams, Austin Thomas, and Michael Barlow; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to recognize this very special team on their many accomplishments; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate the 1997 Battle Ground Academy football team on winning the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association, Division 2, Class A state championship and wish them much continued gridiron success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation to the school and each person named above, with this final clause omitted from such copies.